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SAFFRON WALDEN,

IN THE
Administrative County of Essex.

THE
ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,
FOR THE YEAR

== 1923, ==

BY
S. R. RICHARDSON, B.A., M.D., D.P.H.



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PREFACE.

TO THE MAYOR ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS OF THE
BOROUGH OF SAFFRON WALDEN.

I have the honour to submit to you the Annual Report for the year 1923.

This is the Fiftieth Annual Report which has been issued, and is arranged in accordance with the requirements of the Ministry of Health.

The statistics of births and deaths, for the year 1923, are based on the population estimates supplied by the Registrar General.

The estimated population (5786) shows a decrease of 74, as compared with that of the previous year. This decrease has been progressive for a number of years, the population of the district, according to the enumeration at the Census taken in 1911, being 6311.

The birth-rate of 14·8, for the year 1923, is the same as that for the previous year, and is slightly lower than the average for the preceding ten years.

The death-rate has been exceptionally low, at 11·6 per thousand. The death-rate in 1922 was 16·5, and the average for the previous ten years 14·3.

The infant mortality rate was 23·3 per thousand births, which is the lowest rate recorded in this district.

The general housing conditions are much improved, but a shortage still exists, and a number of families still occupy houses that are unfit for habitation. These houses have already been condemned, but owing to the difficulties of rehousing, it has not been considered desirable to order closure or demolition.

S. R. RICHARDSON,

Medical Officer of Health.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area 7,502 acres.

Population (estimated): 5786.

Number of inhabited houses: 1,562.

Number of families or separate occupiers: 1600.

Rateable Value: £28,080 18s. 6d.

Sum represented by a penny rate: £101 1s.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

BIRTHS: Legitimate 80 (50 males, 30 females), Illegitimate 6 (2 males, 4 females), Total 86.

Birth-rate per 1000 total population 14'8.

The Birth-rate in England and Wales for the year was 19'7.

DEATHS: 65 (23 males, 42 females).

Death-rate per 1000 total population 11'6.

The Death-rate in England and Wales for the year was 11'6.

Number of Women dying in, or in consequence of childbirth:—

From Sepsis, none.

From other causes, one.

DEATHS of Infants under one year of age:—

Legitimate, two; Illegitimate, none.

Rate per thousand births, 23'2.

The Death-rate of Infants under one year in England and Wales for the year was 69.

DEATHS from Measles (all ages), none.

„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages), none.

„ „ Diarrhoea (under two years), none.

There was no unusual or excessive mortality from any disease during the year.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

Disease.	Total Cases Notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Small Pox	0	0	0
Diphtheria	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever	3	2	0
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)	5	0	0
Puerperal Fever	0	0	0
Pneumonia	0	0	0
Other Diseases	0	0	0

TUBERCULOSIS.

Age Periods.				NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
				Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
				M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	..	..	..	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1	.									1	
5	..	..	..					
10	..	..	..					
15	..	..	..		1						
20	..	..	..	2		1		1			
25	..	..	..				1		1		
35	..	..	..	2		1					
45	..	..	..					1			
55	..	..	..	2							
65 upwards	..	..	..					
TOTALS	..	..	..	6	1	2	1	2	1	1	0

As regards the deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis, in all cases the disease had previously been notified. The notification of Tuberculosis in the district is satisfactory.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

Only one case of Ophthalmia was notified. The patient was treated at home, and the condition cured without any impairment of vision.

OTHER CAUSES OF SICKNESS.

No other cause of sickness or invalidity has been unusually prevalent, or specially noteworthy in the district.

HOSPITALS.

The Hospital for Infectious Diseases is the Saffron Walden Urban and Rural Joint Fever Hospital, situate within a mile of the Borough. The Hospital is administered by a Joint Hospital Board, consisting of the Chairman as *ex-officio* member, five members from the Saffron Walden Rural District Council, the Mayor and two members representing the Saffron Walden Urban District Council.

The Saffron Walden General Hospital is available for General Nursing.

A Small Pox Hospital is available for this district, jointly with other districts in North-West Essex.

HOME NURSING AND MIDWIFERY.

Midwifery, and nursing duties in relation to Tuberculosis, School and Infant Welfare, are carried out by two District Nurse-Midwives, employed by the District Nursing Association, which is affiliated to the County Nursing Association. The work is supervised by a Health Visitor in the service of the Essex County Council.

A Child Welfare Centre has been established at the Central Hall, High Street, Saffron Walden. The Centre is maintained on a voluntary basis under the control of a Local Voluntary Committee, to whom a grant is made by the County Council. Sessions are held once a week.

Ambulances are available for infectious and non-infectious and accident cases.

LABORATORY WORK.

Bacteriological Examinations are made by the Essex County Laboratory, London.

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

The following General Adoptive Acts are in force in the district :—

1. The Infectious Disease (Prevention) Act was adopted on the 7th November, 1890, and came into force in January, 1891.
2. The Public Health Acts' Amendment Act, 1890, came into force, 1st February, 1891.
3. The Private Streets Works Act, 1892.
4. The Baths and Wash-houses Act, adopted 1908.

Bye-laws for the following purposes are in force in the district :—

1. Bye-Laws with respect to Nuisances. Allowed by the Local Government Board, 26th January, 1875.
2. Regulations with respect to Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops. Adopted 10th June, 1887.
3. Bye-Laws with respect to Markets. Allowed by the Local Government Board, 23rd September, 1892.
4. Bye-Laws with respect to Slaughterhouses. Allowed by the Local Government Board, 19th July, 1893.

5. Bye-Laws with respect to Cleansing of Footways and Pavements. Allowed by the Local Government Board 13th September, 1894.
6. Bye-Laws with respect to New Streets and Buildings. Allowed by the Local Government Board, 7th May, 1895
7. Bye-Laws with respect to Alteration of Buildings. Allowed by the Local Government Board, 7th May, 1895.
8. Bye-Laws with respect to Public Baths.
9. Regulations as to connections with Sewers. Made 12th May, 1911, under the provisions of Section 21 of the Public Health Act, 1875.

Work of the Sanitary Department, under Article 19 of the Sanitary Officer's Order, 1922 :—

Complaints received	...	...	...	...	97
Nuisances or defects found	...	...	...	...	178
Nuisances or defects remedied	...	...	...	...	174
Informal written notices	...	...	...	...	108
Statutory notices	...	...	...	...	76
Premises disinfected	...	...	...	...	17
Samples of water taken for analysis	...	...	...	...	1
Wells cleaned out	...	...	...	...	1

There are ten bakehouses in the district, and the number of inspections made during the year was 37. All the bakehouses were limewashed twice during the year.

There are five private slaughterhouses in the town, and the number of inspections made during the year was 35.

Disinfection is carried out in all premises where infectious disease has occurred, and in other cases when considered advisable.

Regulations under the Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops Order have been in force in this district since July, 1887. There are in the district 24 cowsheds. The number of persons registered as cowkeepers or purveyors of Milk is 16. All the premises are regularly inspected. The general condition of the milk premises is fairly satisfactory.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

The Sanitary Inspector for the district is H. J. Baxter, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A. The office is part-time.

HOUSING.

Number of new houses erected during the year:—

Total	...	...	...	...	...	7
With State assistance	...	...	...	...	...	0
By private enterprise	...	...	...	...	...	7

I. UNFIT Dwelling-houses.

Number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under the Public Health Acts)	...	...	60
Number of dwelling-houses inspected under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations	...	...	80
Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	60
Number of other dwelling-houses not in all respects fit for human habitation	...	...	0

II. REMEDY of Defects without service of formal notice.

Number of dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority	...	20
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III. ACTION under Statutory Powers.

A. *Proceedings under Section 28 of the Housing, Town Planning, etc., Act, 1919.*

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	...	...	0
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit—			
(a) by owners	...	...	0
(b) by Local Authority	...	...	0
(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close	...	...	0

B. *Proceedings under Public Health Acts.*

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	...	20
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied—		
(a) by owners	...	20
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners	...	0

C. *Proceedings under Sections 17 and 18 of the Housing, Town Planning, etc., Act, 1909.*

(1).	Number of representations made with a view to the making of the Closing Orders	...	...	...	0
(2).	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made	...	...	...	0
(3).	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit	...	...	...	0
(4).	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	...	...	...	0
(5).	Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	...	...	...	0

